Discontinuance of central assistance to States

†1949. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central assistance which was provided to States by Central Government for the development of sports infrastructure has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuance of the same; and

(c) whether Government are considering to formulate any alternative scheme replacing the previous one?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government decided to transfer the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005. The Ministry took up the matter with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for reviewing the decision in view of financial constraints of States, cost intensive nature of certain categories of infrastructure such as Synthetic Surfaces etc., and the committed liability towards the already approved projects. The Planning Commission did not agree to the request stating that these schemes have been identified for transfer to States as part of the general exercise to reduce the number of Centrally sponsored Schemes, but agreed to provide funds for completion of ongoing projects during the Xth Plan to the extent of the committed liability.

(c) In recognition of the shortage of sports infrastructure, particularly in the rural areas, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is considering the launching of a scheme—"Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" with the objective of developing basic sports infrastructure, and promoting games and sports activities at the village/sub-district level, both as an essential ingredient of the development of the youth and to significantly expand the catchment for spotting and nurturing of sports talent. Consultations are being held in this regard with all the stakeholders concerned with a view to finalizing the proposal.

Schemes for promotion of sports

1950. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that many Centrally sponsored schemes for promotion of sports have been transferred under State Plan Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes;

(c) whether shifting of these schemes from central sponsorships would hinder the progress of the sanctioned schemes as well as the schemes already in the pipeline for want of adequate funds;

(d) whether Government have received request for continuation of these schemes under Central sponsorships; and

(e) if so, the stand of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government decided to transfer the following Centrally sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes, to the State Sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005;

(i) Grant for Creation of Sports Infrastructure;

(ii) Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playground;

(iii) Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges; and

(iv) Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces.

Under these scheme, grants were provided to State Governments, Schools, Colleges, NGOs etc. for creation of sports facilities in accordance with the approved pattern subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments and other agencies.

(c) to (e) The Ministry received a number of representations from various State Governments requesting continuation of these schemes. Based on these requests, the Ministry took up the matter with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for reviewing the decision in view of financial constraints of States, cost intensive nature of certain categories of infrastructure such as synthetic surfaces etc., and the committed liability towards the approved projects. The Planning Commission did not agree to the request stating that these schemes were identified for transfer to states as part of the general exercise to reduce the number of centrally sponsored schemes, but agreed to provide funds for completion of ongoing projects during the 10th Plan to the extent of the committed liability.

However, in recognition of the shortage of sports infrastructure, particularly in the rural areas, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is considering the launching of a scheme—"Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" with the objective of developing basic sports infrastructure, and promoting games and sports activities, at the village/sub-district level, both as an essential ingredient of the development of the youth and to significantly expand the catchment for spotting and nurturing of sports talent. Consultations are being held in this regard with all the stakeholders concerned with a view to finalizing the proposal.

Proposals from Assam

1951. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from Assam for development and promotion of sports has been received during the last three years and till-date;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the present status of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) During the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, 18 proposals were received from Government of Assam under the existing Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, out of which 5 proposals were found viable and approved for Central assistance. The details of these projects have been given below:—

(*Rs. In lakhs*)

Sl. No.	Project	Amount approved	Amount released	Present Status
1	Indoor Stadium at Golaghat	67.50	60.00	The work is under progress.
2	Indoor Statium at Nazira	67.50	60.00	—do—
3	District Level Sports Complex at Sonari, Distt. Shivsagar	144.43	30.00	—do—
4	District level Sports Complex at Golaghat, and	150.00	80.00	—do—
5	Outdoor Stadium at Umrayshi, N.C. Hills.	27.00	27.00	Project Completed